

**Substitute Specification
For Serial No. 09/914,344**

Compact Blast Furnace Installation

Background of the Invention

The invention relates to a blast furnace installation comprising a blast furnace of a shaft furnace construction and of a free-standing configuration without frame as well as correlated installation parts such as hot blast generating device, burdening, and pouring bay for continuous smelting of at least partially treated iron ore to hot metal.

Such blast furnaces without frame are known. For example, such blast furnaces without frame (American configuration) are described in "Hütte", Taschenbuch für Eisenhüttenleute, publishing house Wilhelm Ernst & Sohn, Berlin, 1961, on page 528, wherein the shaft is armored with a steel sheet mantle and is supported by means of a support ring on supports which are positioned closely adjacent to the blast furnace.

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